

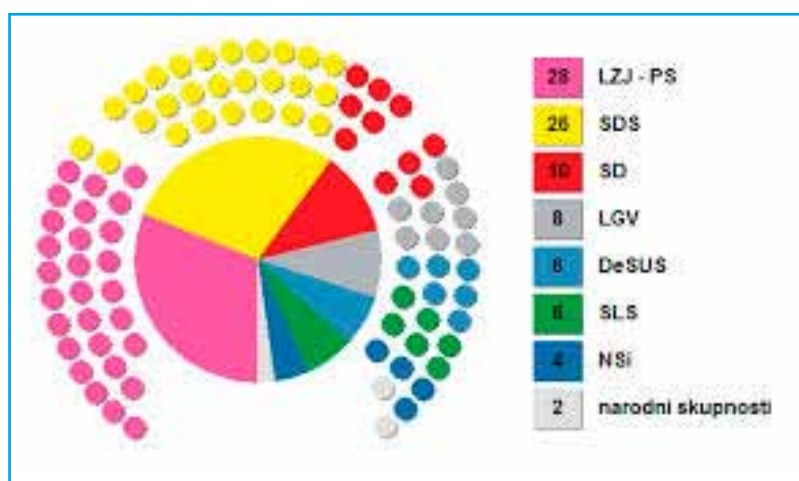


REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 18, 2014, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 25

## Early Parliamentary Elections in Slovenia



**On Sunday, July 13, Slovenia held early parliamentary elections for the 90 deputies to the National Assembly. Slovenian leaders in May 2014 decided to hold early elections after the resignation of PM Alenka Bratušek. 877,634 or 51.23% out of 1,712,977 eligible Slovenian voters participated in the elections.**

According to the preliminary results, the National Assembly will be composed of six different political parties.

The only-five-weeks-old political party of Miro Cerar (SMC), law professor at the University of Ljubljana, has won 34.56% of all votes cast, assuring it 36 seats in the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia; second came in Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS), with 20.72% of the vote or 21 seats.

Along with SMC and SDS, enough votes to win seats in the National Assembly were also gained by the Democratic Pensioners' Party of Slovenia (DeSUS), which with 10.21% of the votes won 10 seats, the

United Left (Združena Levica), with 5.97% of the vote won 6 seats, the Social Democrats (SD) with 5.96 % of the vote also won 6 seats, New Slovenia (NSi) with 5.57% won 5 seats, and the Alliance of Alenka Bratušek (ZaAB), the current PM, with 4.34 % of the vote won 4 seats in the National Assembly. The remaining two seats out of the 90 in all are assigned to the representatives of the Italian and Hungarian minorities. Final and official results are expected to be announced later in July.



## July 17 – International Criminal Justice Day

July 17 marks the 16th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. With this act, the international community established the first permanent international court for prosecuting the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.

As a Party to the Rome Statute, Slovenia has been actively supporting the operation and strengthening of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as one of the most significant tools for preventing and prosecuting the most serious crimes whenever states are unable or unwilling to do so themselves. The establishment and functioning of the ICC and other international criminal tribunals (for former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, etc.) are evidence that the international community is not willing to tolerate the impunity for severe violations of international humanitarian law.

Today, the ICC has 122 States Parties from all parts of the globe and ensures protection to more than 2.3 billion people. It is currently investigating eight cases, namely, in the Sudan (the Darfur case), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, the Central African Republic, Kenya, Libya, the Ivory Coast, and Mali. Furthermore, preliminary examinations are being conducted in eleven cases: in Afghanistan, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Colombia, the Comoros, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the Central African Republic, and Ukraine. The Court has also been assisting more than 100,000 victims of crimes.



Foreign Minister Erjavec joined the campaign and on #17July, called on all countries to join the @IntlCrimCourt's efforts.

As one of the leading supporters of the ICC, Slovenia is actively involved in the endeavors of the international community to advance international criminal justice. Slovenia has demonstrated its commitment to the ICC through active participation in negotiation processes aimed at strengthening global international criminal justice and by organizing various events on international criminal law ([http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp\\_docs/Publications/ASP-PUB-NY-Sem2010-ENG.pdf](http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp_docs/Publications/ASP-PUB-NY-Sem2010-ENG.pdf); [http://www.mzz.gov.si/nc/si/medijsko\\_srediscenovica/article/3993/31637/](http://www.mzz.gov.si/nc/si/medijsko_srediscenovica/article/3993/31637/); [http://www.bledstrategicforum.org/media/video/video\\_2013](http://www.bledstrategicforum.org/media/video/video_2013); [http://www.mzz.gov.si/nc/si/medijsko\\_sredisce/novica/article/141/33562/](http://www.mzz.gov.si/nc/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/article/141/33562/)). Slovenia devotes special attention to the victims of crimes and contributes EUR 15,000 annually to ICC's Trust Fund for Victims.

Slovenia reaffirms its full support for the activities of the aforementioned courts and tribunals and calls for a stronger role of the U.N. in this area. Slovenia will continue to strive for the universality of the Rome Statute and the activation of the amendments relating to the crime of aggression and war crimes adopted in Kampala (Uganda) in June 2010. Slovenia urges all states to unconditionally cooperate with the Court and respect its independence and integrity. The prosecution of international crimes is a precondition for reconciliation and a stable and prosperous future for the whole of humanity. Therefore, Slovenia calls upon states that are not members of the ICC to join the International Criminal Court and participate in the global fight against impunity for crimes of mass atrocity.



# Ambassador Dr. Cerar Attends 33rd SLOVENEFEEST



SNPJ President Joseph Evanish, Ambassador Božo Cerar of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia (Washington, D.C.), and Slovenian Heritage Center Director Maury Sinan enjoying Slovenefest.

Photos: <https://www.facebook.com/SNPJHeritageCenter>

SNPJ's 33rd Annual Slovenefest, held at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Borough of SNPJ, PA, brought together thousands of people to enjoy the ethnic food, music, and culture of Slovenia. This, the largest Slovenian cultural festival in North America, took place on Friday through Sunday July 11 – 13 and featured more than 20 Slovenian polka bands and

button-box accordion clubs from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Canada at five indoor and outdoor venues.

Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar attended the event and met at the reception on July 12 the SNPJ National Board and Miss SNPJ Pageant contestants. Further, he spoke to the audience on Sunday afternoon, when he praised the SNPJ's (Slovenska narodna

podporna jednota – Slovenian National Benefit Society) heritage. SNPJ was established in 1904 and, on the occasion of its 110th anniversary, the ambassador conveyed to thousands of visitors congratulations from the President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, and presented to the SNPJ president Joseph Evanish a recognition from the Office for Slovenes Abroad.



# Slovenian Music at the Kennedy Center

Flautists Matej Grahek, Nina Assimakopoulos and pianist Tadej Horvat introduced on Tuesday, July 15, a blend of multicultural works combining classical, jazz, rock, folk, Caribbean, Asian, and South American musical influences at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia, on the program were pieces by Slovene composers: Vito Žuraj, Blaž Pucihar and Črt Sojar Voglar. Sojar Voglar's composition: "Little colorful fantasia" (Mala barvita fantazija) was world premiered on the occasion. The concert, titled "Flute Loops", also featured music by Ian Clarke, Leo Delibes, Astor Piazzola and a new composition by David Taddie, Triptych. The video of the concert is available online at: [http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/artists/?entity\\_id=116054&source\\_type=B](http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/artists/?entity_id=116054&source_type=B)

Matej Grahek has been the principal flautist of the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra since 1997 and also holds the position of Associate Professor at the University of Ljubljana



Matej Grahek and Nina Assimakopoulos.

Music Academy. He finished his postgraduate studies at the Salzburg Mozarteum, studying with Professor Irena Grafenauer in 2001. To date, Grahek has released 11 CD recordings, six of which are solo projects with chamber groups and orchestras. Pianist Tadej Horvat studied at the Ljubljana Music Academy with prof. Dubravka Tomšič– Srebotnjak and finished his postgraduate studies in Bern, Switzerland, with Professor Aleksandar Madžar. Horvat has

performed as a soloist with Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, RTV Symphony Orchestra, Ljubljana Conservatory of Music Orchestra, and SNG Ljubljana National Opera Orchestra. He is an accompanist and professor of piano at the Conservatory for Music and Ballet as well as the Academy of Music in Ljubljana.

Both musicians were joined on the Millennium stage by the the flute virtuoso and contemporary music expert Nina Assimakopoulos. Nina works as a flute professor at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV, where she organized the International Flute Symposium. The event ran from July 16-20th, 2014, and offered the widest variety of performances, workshops, and masterclasses, including the masterclass presented by Matej Grahek and Tadej Horvat. Both Slovenian artists also performed at the opening concert on July 16 and gala concert on July 17, introducing music by Slovenian composers.



Tadej Horvat.



# Women's Foreign Policy Group Event at the Embassy

On July 16, 2014, Robin Wright, a journalist, author, foreign policy analyst, USIP Senior Fellow, and Wilson Center Distinguished Scholar, discussed the crisis in Iraq at a Beyond the Headlines event at the Embassy of Slovenia. The event was organized in cooperation with the Women's Foreign Policy Group and hosted by the Ambassador Dr. Cerar, who greeted some 50 guests that joined the debate. Following the welcome reception for representatives of various NGOs, think tanks, universities, the administration, and the diplomatic corps, Patricia Ellis, president and co-founder of the Women's Foreign Policy Group, presented the keynote speaker. Ms. Wright has throughout her career reported from more than 140 countries on six continents for The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, The Sunday



Address by Ambassador Dr Božo Cerar.

Times of London and CBS News, among others.

In her talk she compared the current developments in Iraq, and their possible future transformations, focusing on the map of the Middle East she has redrawn in a September 28th article for the New York

Times. At the end of the lecture, several other issues were raised by the audience, such as the role of the U.S. in the region, and also comments and opinions on the importance of the stability in the Middle East.



Around 50 guests attended the discussion on Iraq.



The event was part of Beyond the Headlines series.

# Global Young Leaders Conference Participants at Visit the Embassy

Accomplished high school students from 15 different countries who participated at the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, visited the Embassy of Slovenia on Wednesday, July 16. They were addressed by Nuška Zakrajšek, Cultural, Public Diplomacy and Press Officer, who presented to the juniors and seniors the history, geography, culture and economy of Slovenia as well as its role in the international community. She also explained to the visitors the role and purpose of diplomatic and consular representations. The presentation was followed by a Q and A session, with Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar sharing his expertise and experience in the field of



GYLC participants came to WASHINGTON, D.C. from 15 different countries.

diplomacy and international relations.

The group of outstanding high school students came to the capital from all around the world, namely, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Bahamas, Bermuda, Greece, Kenya,

Nigeria, Peru, Spain, South Africa, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, the U.K. and the U.S. The GYLC is annually organized by the EnvisionEMI and Lead America organizations in the U.S. and well as Europe and China.



Ambassador Dr Božo Cerar was answering students' questions.



Lecture by Nuška Zakrajšek.



## "Kopi" brings Stanley Cup to Slovenia for the Second Time

On June 13, 2014, the Los Angeles Kings for the second time in three years won the most prestigious and famous trophy in ice hockey, the Stanley Cup. This achievement would not have been possible without Slovenian hockey superstar Anže Kopitar. Already during the race to the 2012 Stanley Cup Championship, Kopi played a crucial role in the tournament. This year, he performed even better and won the Stanley Cup as a scoring leader with a starring performance in points (26) and goals (5).

Traditionally, every member of the team who has won the Stanley Cup gets to hold the cup for 24-hours to take it to his home state or country. The Stanley Cup had already been to Slovenia once, in June 2012, and it was not long afterwards to find its way back. Thanks to Anže Kopitar, the Stanley Cup visited Slovenia again on July



Anže Kopitar in Bled two years ago.

13, 2014. The prestigious NHL trophy is referred by Slovenians as "Stanko", and this time more than 3,000 hockey fans welcomed it in the fully packed Jesenice Hall, where Kopi started his hockey career as a 4-year-old boy. Before the cup's arrival to Jesenice, the Slovenian hockey idol visited

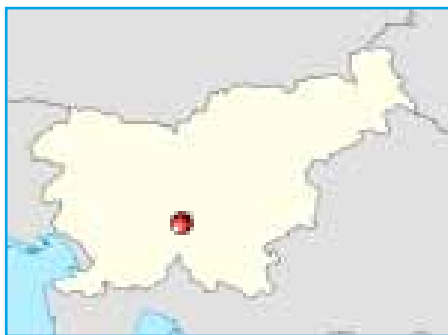
lake Bled and Golica, which is widely recognized because of the song Na Golici, performed by the Avseniki musical group. This time the whole Slovenian national hockey team, the Risi (Lynxes), which performed outstandingly at the 2014 Olympics Winter Games in Sochi, welcomed Kopi, and all the visitors had the opportunity to take a photo with the Stanley Cup.

Once again, Slovenian hockey fans have shown that hockey is becoming more and more popular in Slovenia and that, arguably, it may become the nation's most popular sport. Due to the fact that Kopi is one of the most successful and best-recognized Slovenian athletes, more and more youngsters are deciding to play the game and Anže is their best inspiration and role model.



Anže Kopitar in Golica. (Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/akopitar11>)

## Velike Lašče and Rašica



The town of Velike Lašče lies in the central part of Slovenia, in its Lower Carniola region, about 20 miles from the capital city of Ljubljana. The name of the settlement was first recorded in written sources in 1145 as Lasis (and as Lasissa in 1251, and Lasitsch in 1256). The medieval transcriptions indicate that the name was derived from the name Lah that originally referred to the Romanized Celtic population of Lahi or Vlahi, and later to Romance speakers, including Italians, and Uskoks.

The parish church in the small town is dedicated to the Nativity of Mary. It is a large neo-Romanesque church built after



Veliek Lašče.

the original building, dating to the 13th century, was destroyed by fire in 1856. In front of the church is an obelisk-shaped monument to the poet, storyteller, dramatist, and linguist Fran Levstik, who was born in the nearby village of Retje. He is best known for writing the story of Martin Krpan. Close to Velike Lašče lies the hamlet of Podsmreka, the birthplace of another Slovenian author, critic, and essayist, Josip Stritar.

The nearby village of Rašica is best known as the birthplace of the Slovene Protestant reformer Primož Trubar, who in the 16th century wrote and published the first books in the Slovenian language: the "Spelling Book" (Abecedarium) and a Catechism. Trubar was born in the village in 1508. What remains on the site of the Trubar farm—a 200-year-old sawmill and a more recent barn—have been arranged into a small museum with a printing workshop and a gallery.

The local church in the village, dedicated to Saint Bartholomew, was built in the early 17th century on the site of an older building. In 1765, it was remodeled in the Baroque style and, in 1839, its façade was replaced.

A circular cultural hiking trail links the birthplaces of three great Slovenes: Levstik, Stritar and Trubar. It begins in Velike Lašče, is about 10 miles long and takes about three to four hours to walk.



Memorial house of Primož Trubar in Rašica. (Source: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info))



**SLOVENIAN ARTIST BETI BRICELJ EXHIBITS IN DALLAS, TX**

From Slovenia, Venezuela, and Dallas With Love, an exhibition featuring hard-edge geometric abstractions by artists from three continents. The paintings of Beti Bricelj, Israel Guevera, and work of sculptor Jeff Robinson will be shown through October.

When: [Ongoing - October 2014](#)

Where: [Museum of Geometric and MADI Art, 3109 Carlisle Street, Dallas, TX 75204-1194](#)

More information: <http://www.geometricmadimuseum.org/>



**SLOVENIAN FILM KARPOTROTTER IN RURAL ROUTE FESTIVAL IN NYC**

The highlights of the 10th annual edition of the Rural Route Festival include a 50th anniversary presentation on restored 35mm of Parajanov's legendary Ukraine/Carpathian-set *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*, a new DCP Director's Cut restoration of the British cult classic, *Wicker Man*, and a rare 16mm print of the great ethnomusicologist, Alan Lomax's film on British May Day celebrations, *Oss Oss Wee Oss*.

Cutting-edge new films include Josephine Decker's *Butter on the Latch*, alongside the North American Premiere of Ukrainian documentary, *Krasna Malanka*, the one-of-a-kind mythological fiction about one of the most unique ethnic groups within Russia, *Celestial Wives of the Meadow Mari*, the World Premiere of renowned fashion casting director, Daniel Peddle's *Sunset Edge*, and the **new documentary on Yugoslavian Black Wave director, Karpo Godina, Karpotrotter.**

Festival dates: [Aug. 8-10 at the Museum of the Moving Image](#), with closing night at Brooklyn Grange flagship rooftop farm, L.I.C.

Full program of the festival is available at <http://ruralroutefilms.com/2014-festival/>